Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03056 220639Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 220607Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3368

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3056

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, KU

SUBJ: INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGZINE

- 1. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED PASS ASAP FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO COMMERICAL CABLE SENT TO DCM BY MRS. CAROL MCNAMARA, RESEARCH STAFF, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, WASHINGTON, DC.
- 2. REGRET EMBASSY CANNOT PROVIDE PRECISE CONFIRMATION OF ALL INFO CONTAINED IN YOUR CABLE. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING COMMENTS MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE; ACCORDING OFFICIAL GOK STATISTICS NOW AVAILABLE TOTAL INCOME FOR GOVERMENT IN 1974 APPROX \$10 BILLION, OVER NINTY PERCENT OF WHICH DERIVED FROM PETROLEUM EXPORTS. REMAINDER IS FROM OTHER EXPORTS AND INVESTMENTS INCOME. TOTAL IMPORTS WERE \$1.6 BILLION OR ABOUT 16 PERCENT OF INCOME. NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PLEDGES, BOTH BILATERAL AND GOK CONTRIBUTIONS TO MULTI-LATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTIONS, WERE SLIGHTLY OVER \$2 BILLION OR SLIGHTLY OVER 20 PERCENT OF INCOME. EMBASSY CANNOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN POLITICAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.
- 3. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE PRECISE INFO REGARDING HOW MUCH IS KEPT ON DEPOSIT IN BANKS, BUT WE ESTIMATE THAT GOK MAINTAINS ENOUGH LIQUID FUNDS TO COVER BUDGET, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND OTHER SHORT TERM REQUIREMENTS AND THIS IS THOUGHT TO AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$6 BILLION OR ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF 1974 INCOME. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAY WISH NOTE THAT DURING 1974 TOTAL RESERVE AND FOREIGN ASSETS INCREASED ABOUT \$6 BILLION FROM ABOUT \$4.5 BILLION TO ABOUT \$10.5 BILLION.
- 4. EMBASSY DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW HOW MUCH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03056 220639Z

WAS ACTUALLY DISBURSED NOR DO WE HAVE PRECISE NEW INVESTMENT

STATISTICS. IN ANY CASE, SONE AID HAS CHARACTERISTICS OF INVESTMENT AND VICE VERSA. EVEN BANK DEPOSITS AND OTHER LIQUID HOLDINGS CAN BE CONSIDERED AS INVESTMENTS AS THEY EARN INTEREST, AND THIS SIGNIFICANT NUMBER GIVEN LARGE SIZE KUWAITI HOLDINGS. STOLTZFUS

NOTE BY OCT: INFORMATION NOT PASSED MRS. MCNAMARA.

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TAGS: EGEN, KU, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
To: STATE

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